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STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

1. Page 1, table of contents

   For Italy (on behalf of the European Union) read Italy

2. Page 3

   (a) For ITALY (on behalf of the European Union) read ITALY*

   (b) Insert the following note at the bottom of the page

   * On behalf of the European Union and of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with it (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia), as well as of the associated countries Cyprus and Malta.

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* A/51/150.

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ALGERIA

[Original: French]

[16 August 1996]

1. Algeria fully supports the goals and objectives envisaged by the General Assembly in resolution 50/75 of 12 December 1995 with a view to the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

2. The est blishment of a new era of cooperation in international relations calls for increased mobilization of collective efforts to meet challenges both in terms of relations among States and in the context of international organizations. In this regard, the historical and geo-strategic importance of the Mediterranean region gives a special relevance to that need given the possible regional and international implications.

3. Algeria's efforts towards the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region are part of initiatives aimed at strengthening the bases for a balanced and just Mediterranean order.

4. Aware of the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean, Algeria believes that it is necessary to enhance cooperation in the region and to strive to reduce the existing disparities in levels of development through a coherent approach which takes into account the relationship between security and political stability on the one hand, and the requirements of economic and social development on the other hand.

5. The Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference held in Barcelona in November 1995 opened up bright prospects for enhanced and closer cooperation in various sectors.

6. The debate on the ambitious partnership scheme, involving political, security, economic, financial, human and social issues, initiated by the Euro-Mediterranean Conference, clearly suggests the challenges that might result from renewed relations among partners of the Mediterranean region. Mindful of such challenges, Algeria, as the coordinator for the Mediterranean Arab countries within the framework of the Barcelona Conference, has endeavoured to uphold and promote the principles and values that could help to forge a common destiny.

7. Algeria believes that a global and unified approach remains a prerequisite for addressing the common concerns of Mediterranean countries in a meaningful manner. Partnership in the political and security field should be based on a mutual political determination of the Mediterranean States to address common concerns jointly. In accordance with the principles of international law (non-interference, non-use of force or threat of use of force, sovereign equality, self-determination ...), any cooperation towards that end can only strengthen democracy and consolidate the rule of law in the region and help to eliminate any threats to peace and security, including destabilizing phenomena that cut across national borders.

8. Terrorism, a global phenomenon, calls for preventive policies and sustained cooperation on the part of all countries of the Mediterranean. The concepts of stability, development and democracy are inseparable. Security is indivisible.

9. Regional security must be based on the gradual implementation of confidence-building measures. Such measures are inextricably linked to the just and lasting settlement of conflicts, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the de-escalation of crises affecting the region, concrete disarmament measures through the accession of all States of the region to the multilateral treaties on the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention) and the international monitoring of all nuclear installations.

10. In the economic field, an equal partnership necessarily requires concrete measures to reduce the disparities in the levels of development between countries on the two shores of the Mediterranean. The goal is to establish new economic relationships and promote a partnership for joint development. The issue of the establishment of a free-trade area cannot be conceived of without ensuring that the partners in that endeavour enjoy equal treatment.

11. Algeria advocates the development of cooperation sectors taking into account the economic situation in the Southern Mediterranean countries and the development needs of those countries in the social, economic, environmental (desertification and deforestation problems) and energy sectors.

12. As far as human relations and communications are concerned, the gap in terms of knowledge of other peoples must be bridged. The removal of restrictions on the freedom of individuals to move, live and work elsewhere will foster better relations among people and a greater understanding among Mediterranean societies.

13. Current conditions are propitious for fruitful cooperation in the Mediterranean region. Any attempt to open up a new era is contingent upon the willingness of the States of the Mediterranean to create a confidence-building environment that will help to foster new forms of partnership.